

HOUSE RESOLUTION 327
By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of James Melvin Caudle of
Somerville, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of
the passing of James Melvin Caudle; and

WHEREAS, James Melvin Caudle was an exemplary public servant and consummate
professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in
numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Troy, Tennessee, on September 10, 1916, to the late Dee Caudle
and the late Eva Mae Caudle, Mr. Caudle passed from this life to a far better existence on
March 22, 2004, at 87 years of age; and

WHEREAS, James Caudle married Mary Virginia Davie on April 1, 1945, a blessed
union that continued for nearly sixty years until Mr. Caudle's passing; and

WHEREAS, fondly known as "Smokey Joe," James Caudle had previously lived in the
Memphis area where he worked as a foreman for the Buckeye Oil Company; he was also a self-
employed builder and carpenter, as well as dairy farmer in Shelby County before he moved to
Fayette County in 1958; and

WHEREAS, James Melvin Caudle served with acumen and alacrity in agricultural
activities in Fayette County, where he earned the respect of his fellow farmers for the exemplary
quality of his work and his dedication to duty; he had retired from farming eighteen years ago;
and

WHEREAS, warmly remembered as a large man with a tender heart and many talents,
Smokey Joe was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who had a great love for Fayette
County and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Caudle was an active and devout member of the Warren Community
Church; and

WHEREAS, James Caudle was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Caudle is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Virginia Caudle; and

WHEREAS, he was the proud farther of Marla Phillips of Covington, Dinah Armour of Somerville, Don Caudle of Alamo, Glen Caudle of Covington, and Davie Caudle of Somerville; he was the loving grandfather of eight and a devoted great-grandfather of seven; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by a grandson, Jim Armour; and

WHEREAS, James Melvin Caudle leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of James Melvin "Smokey Joe" Caudle, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of James Melvin Caudle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.